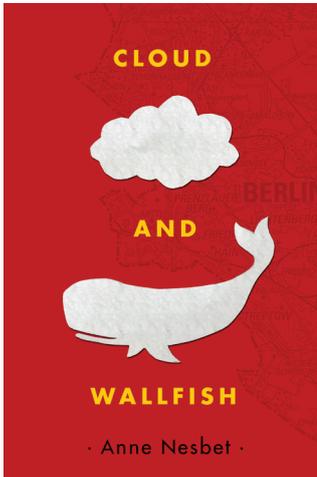




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Cloud and Wallfish

By Anne Nesbet  
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\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

Noah Keller has a pretty normal life, until one wild afternoon when his parents pick him up from school and head straight for the airport, telling him on the ride that his name isn't really Noah and he didn't really just turn eleven in March. And he can't even ask them why—not because of his Astonishing Stutter, but because asking questions is against the newly instated rules. (Rule Number Two: Don't talk about serious things indoors, because Rule Number One: They will always be listening.) As Noah—now “Jonah Brown”—and his parents head behind the Iron Curtain into East Berlin, the rules and secrets begin to pile up so quickly that he can hardly keep track of the questions bubbling up inside him: Who, exactly, is listening—and why? When did his mother become fluent in so many languages? And what really happened to the parents of his only friend, Cloud-Claudia, the lonely girl who lives downstairs? In an intricately plotted novel full of espionage and intrigue, friendship and family, Anne Nesbet cracks history wide open and gets right to the heart of what it feels like to be an outsider in a world that's impossible to understand.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Anne Nesbet is the author of the novels *The Cabinet of Earths*, *A Box of Gargoyles*, and *The Wrinkled Crown*. Her books have received starred reviews and have been selected for the Kids' Indie Next List, Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best list, and the Bank Street College Best Children's Books of the Year list. An associate professor at the University of California, Berkeley, Anne Nesbet lives with her family in the San Francisco Bay Area

## How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

### These notes are for:

- Primary years 5-6
- Secondary years 7-8
- Ages 10+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English

### Example of:

- Novel

### Themes/Ideas:

- Cold War
- Spy/Detective
- Emotional and Physical Journeys

